



Arizona Department of Education
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MEMORANDUM

TO: Superintendents, Charter Holders, Principals, and Testing Coordinators

FROM: Dr. Robert J. Franciosi
Deputy Associate Superintendent

DATE: May 25, 2010

SUBJECT: **Changes to AZ LEARNS and Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) Evaluations.**
(REF: RE10006-E)

This memo is to inform you of changes to the AZ LEARNS and AYP evaluations to be released next month:

- 1. Persistently Lowest-Achieving schools will be designated as Underperforming for AZ LEARNS.** At the May 24, 2010 meeting the State Board of Education approved the following policy:

“Schools that meet the federally-approved state definition of Persistently Lowest-Achieving and have ELL reclassification rates lower than 30 percent shall receive an AZ LEARNS profile of underperforming.”

As a result of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, the U.S. Department of Education required that states identify Persistently Lowest-Achieving Schools.

Please refer to the Arizona Department of Education web page here:

<http://www.ade.az.gov/azlearns/aypdeterminations.asp>

for the definition of Persistently Lowest-Achieving (PLA) and the current list of PLA schools. The list of PLA schools will be updated next month.

- 2. New AYP goals for the graduation rate.** The U.S. Department of Education has completed a peer review of how states calculate the graduation rate and use it for AYP evaluations. Arizona has been requested to change the graduation rate goals used for AYP. The goals are now a graduation rate of 80 percent (formerly 71 percent) or a 2 percentage point improvement over the previous year (formerly 1 percentage point). The graduation rate used for the 2010 AYP evaluations will be for the class of 2009.

If you have any questions regarding this information, please contact Research and Evaluation at 602-542-5151 or email achieve@azed.gov.